

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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SUBJECT: GA PRESIDENTS STATEMENT ON EFFECT OF ANTI-ZIONISM
RESOLUTION

FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT BY GA PRESIDENT THORN ISSUED
NOVEMBER 11 AFTER ADOPTION OF GA RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM
WITH RACISM:

QUOTE

I SAID LAST WEEK THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO VOTE ON THE QUESTION OF ZIONISM, BECAUSE TO
DO SO WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN DE-
VELOPING AND INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE
EMERGED SINCE THE CONFRONTATIONS OF 1974. WE NEED THAT SPIRIT
OF CO-OPERATION TO COMPLETE THE TASK BEGUN AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL
SESSION ON DEVELOPMENT, TO ESTABLISH A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, AND
TO SOLVE POLITICAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

I WELL RELIZE THAT IT HAS TAKEN THE OLD MAJORITY, THAT
OF THE WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, TOO LONG TO GRASP
THAT IT WAS NO LONGER IN A POSITION TO IMPOSE ITS VIEWS WITHOUT
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE
NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATIONS. THERE FOLLOWED A LONG PERIOD
DURING WHICH IT APPEARED THAT THE THIRD WORLD, WITH ITS
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NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY, WAS TRYING AT ALL COSTS TO TAKE ITS

REVENGE. YET IT WAS AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, PERHAPS
IMPELLED BY THE WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS, THAT ALL SIDES
SEEMED TO BECOME AWARE OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL INTERDEPENDENCE,
THAT ALL, INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALIKE, SPOKE
THE LANGUAGE OF COMPROMISE AND CONCILIATION WHICH MADE
IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN RESULTS WHICH ARE NOW A MATTER OF COMMON
KNOWLEDGE.

THAT IS WHAT MAKES IT SO REGRETTABLE THAT THE WHOLE
POLICY OF RAPPROACHEMENT AND CONCERTED ACTION SHOULD BE JEOPARDIZED,
SENSELESSLY BECAUSE IT WAS UNNECESSARY, SINCE SOME EXTREMISTS
DID NOT REALIZE THAT ONE COULD GO TOO FAR. MANY COUNTRIES
HAVE DECLARED THAT THEY NO LONGER CONSIDER THEMSELVES BOUND
BY UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON SUCH IMPORTANT PROBLEMS AS APARTHEID
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, WHICH IN THE PAST WERE
ADOPTED ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY.

IN THE CASE OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WE WERE MAKING PROGRESS
IN WORKING BY CONSENSUS. IN THE CASE OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS,
EFFORTS - SOME OF THEM SUCCESSFUL- HAD BEGUN ON THE SPOT,
AND THERE WERE GROUNDS FOR HOPING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S
DEBATES WOULD ENABLE THESE EFFORTS, TOO, TO CONTINUE IN A CLIMATE OF
CONCILIATION. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT UNANIMITY OF SOCIAL QUESTIONS,
CONSENSUS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES AND THE POLITICAL CLIMATE SHOULD
HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY YESTERDAY'S VOTE, WHICH IS THE UNHAPPY
PRODUCE OF PRESSURE BY THOSE WHO WANTED TO IMPOSE A POINT OF
VIEW WHICH IS HISTORICALLY AND PHILOSOPHICALLY FALSE.

I MUST ADD THAT I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND HOW, ON SO POLITICIZED
A PROBLEM AND ONE WHICH RAISES SUCH FUNDAMENTAL MORAL ISSUES, 32
SOVEREIGN NATIONS COULD HAVE ABSTAINED FROM FACING THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES.

I FEAR THAT THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS VOTE WILL BECOME APPAR-
ENT ALL TOO SOON TO EVERYONE, INCLUDING THOSE WHO INSTIGATED
IT, AND I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THIS REALIZATION WILL ENABLE THE
NECESSARY NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS TO PUT THINGS RIGHT AND
THUS TO RECREATE THE ATMOSPHERE OF BROAD CONSENSUS WHICH
IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE SOUND
FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS.
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